



Southwestern Oklahoma State University
SWOSU Digital Commons

Oklahoma Research Day Abstracts

2014 Oklahoma Research Day

Jan 1st, 12:00 AM

09. Sociology

University of Central Oklahoma

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/ordabstracts>



Part of the [Communication Commons](#), [Geography Commons](#), and the [International and Area Studies Commons](#)

University of Central Oklahoma, "09. Sociology" (2014). *Oklahoma Research Day Abstracts*. 7.
<https://dc.swosu.edu/ordabstracts/2014oklahomaresearchday/liberalarts/7>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Oklahoma Research Day at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oklahoma Research Day Abstracts by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. An ADA compliant document is available upon request. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

Abstracts from the 2014 Oklahoma Research Day

Held at the University of Central Oklahoma

04. Liberal Arts

09. Sociology

04.09.01 CIA Fieldwork and Seminar: No Spooks Here Just Students, Practitioners, and Research

Elizabeth, Maier , Alina Istrate

University of Central Oklahoma

In the final year of the Crime and Intelligence Analysis (CIA) Master's program students are required to complete two courses that involve students, practitioners, and practical research to address current problems. The courses combine students working in the field with conducting research, analyzing data, making academically sound recommendations, writing a report, and presenting their findings to practitioners. Dr. Maier will address the faculty side from course prep work to course instruction. Ms. Istrate will discuss a student's perspective. From this presentation, individuals will learn how these ideas could be applied at other universities.

04.09.02 Geographical Disparities in Wrongful Conviction Cases

Christina, Buchanan

University of Central Oklahoma

Being convicted of a crime you did not commit has to be a horrible situation. Fortunately, there are many groups in the United States devoted to overturning wrongful convictions. While it is good news that innocent people are being released from jail, the question remains as to why, and where, people are wrongfully convicted. The purpose of this research project is to examine geographical locations of wrongful convictions to determine if there is a higher instance of wrongful convictions in rural areas as opposed to urban areas in the United States. From these findings, recommendations can be made for future research on this subject, along with recommendations for possible improvements to avoid wrongful convictions in the future.

04.09.03 Attitudes, Perceptions, and Beliefs of First-Generation College Going Students

Stephanie, Smith , Jay Corwin

University of Central Oklahoma

The purpose of this research is to look at the difference in attitudes, perceptions, and beliefs of first-generation college students entering and completing college. The hypothesis is that first-generation students will leave college with a greater sense of pride and leadership within their families. Studies have shown that first-generation college students have lower retention and graduation rates (Woosley & Shepler 2001). First-generation college students experience college much differently than their non-first generation counterparts. Interviews with first- generation college students were conducted and were used to collect information about the beliefs and experiences of being a first-generation college student. This information is very important because it can help future and current college students to understand the impact of getting an education. This information can also be helpful to professors and other support staff at colleges and universities. This information can provide them insight to how first-generation students are perceiving college and how they can be of greater assistance to these students.

04.09.04 A Phenomenological Study of Post-Divorce Adjustment As Seen In Midlife

Joanni, Sailor , Griselda Lloyd

Cameron University

Today, a majority of all divorces are being granted to individuals between the ages of 45 to 54 . The aim of this research was to gain an understanding of the Lived-Experience of Post-Divorce Adjustment in Midlife. A qualitative design using Moustakas' Transcendental Phenomenology was applied. The essence of the lived experience was developed from the themes, textures and structures that emerged from the data. The clinical implications of this study suggest that obtaining an understanding of the post-divorce adjustment experience may help mental health practitioners enhance the care provided to divorced individuals, divorcing couples, and their family members.

04.09.05 Prevention and Mitigation of Modern Transit Crime: Applied Victimology

Nicholas, Petschel

University of Central Oklahoma

Oklahoma City ranks as the 9th largest metropolitan area in the United States. The population of Oklahoma City is spread throughout the 621 square mile metropolitan area, and it has been difficult for transit officials to develop a public transportation system that consistently provides quality service. As of today, the only available public transportation system in Oklahoma City relies on the use of buses. There are a couple of hubs in the city, but passengers primarily rely on neighborhood stops to access the system. Oklahoma City in recent years has begun several large initiatives to revitalize the city's public transit networks, including a streetcar project, an intermodal hub, and a sidewalk restructuring plan. Even though there has been a lot of recent effort by the local authorities to bolster public transportation usage, a criminological analysis of how to improve the system has not been performed. This research involved a survey of Oklahoma City residents and their preferences and fears as pertaining to public transportation. Analysis of those surveys yielded a set of recommendations for transit authorities that wish to improve our public transit system.

04.09.06 Corporations: Friend or Foe of Rural America?

Brittany, Harlow

Northeastern State University

As corporations continue to evolve into a main global influence, it is necessary to ensure such great power is handled responsibly and for the good of mankind. This analysis seeks to explain the origins of the corporation, the relationship between US government and corporations, and the role corporations play in rural communities in order to assess the benefits and disadvantages of corporate power in America, and provide possible solutions to any subsequent disparities. This descriptive research paper is based on content analysis. Data were obtained from various media including, but not limited to, books, academic papers, articles and interviews. My research indicated there is a stark contrast between the aims of corporations and the needs of the American people, particularly in rural areas. Though consumers support US corporations, profits are typically not filtered back into American communities. My research also indicates the partnerships between corporations and US government increase the personal wealth of a select few at the expense of the average American. The apparent favoring of corporations over the American people is worth further analysis. Current trends, such as corporate personhood and deregulation, are not believed to be capable of sustaining a healthy, long-term economy.

04.09.07 Studying International Methamphetamine Trends

Rashi, Shukla , Danielle Stoneberg, Matt Magness, Shannon Jackson

University of Central Oklahoma

Methamphetamine is increasingly becoming a problem in countries around the world. As the most widely manufactured amphetamine type stimulant (ATS), methamphetamine ranks second only to marijuana as the most commonly used illicit drug worldwide. Little is known about international methamphetamine trends. This research examines global trends in use, trafficking, and production. Data were gathered from diverse types of secondary sources including governmental reports, drug assessments, and media accounts. The methamphetamine problem continues to evolve and change over time. Recent indicators suggest it is becoming increasingly complex and expansive; dimensions are appearing in new areas and shifts are being identified within and between countries around the world. This research will present information on international trends and the limitations of available sources of information.

04.09.08 Crime Analysis Pro-Seminar: Mental Health Project

Elizabeth, Maier , Alina Istrate, Michael Siany

University of Central Oklahoma

It was an exploratory study conducted during the final year of the Crime & Analysis Master's Program. Students worked with practitioners to research a current issue in the field. Law enforcement officers and mental health providers in Oklahoma were surveyed. Research questions for the project were: (1) What is the state of mental health services and/or responses in Oklahoma; (2) What is law enforcement's role in mental health; (3) What challenges face the state with regard to mental health, and (4) What are other states doing or have done with regard to this issue?

04.09.09 Determining Correlations in Suicide among Adolescents and Young Adults

Shawna, Ward , Kelsie Witt

University of Central Oklahoma

In spite of increased community awareness of youth suicide through the national Strategy for Suicide Prevention and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24 (Maimon and Kuhl 2008). The purpose of this research project is to determine the level of frequency in suicidal ideation and attempts on the University of Central Oklahoma campus as well as potential risk factors. Once this baseline is established this information will provide insight to assess areas of need regarding education and information dissemination in this population. This research will examine the incidence of suicidal ideation among this population, personal relationships among those who have attempted or committed suicide, and the effects of memorial services on those who have lost a friend or family member to suicide. This research is conducted using availability samples and personal interviews. Regression and cross-tabulations is used to analyze the data.

04.09.10 Perceptions Regarding Human Trafficking Essance Moore – University of Central Oklahoma, Forensic Science Jennifer Barger-Johnson, J.D. – University of Central Oklahoma, Finance

Essance, Moore

University of Central Oklahoma

Human Domestic Trafficking is a problem that has been overlooked for decades. The purpose of this research is to bring awareness regarding human trafficking in Oklahoma. Minors are a defenseless population that need to be protected. "Many writers use the word 'children' but focus on young women- and research on trafficked boys is non-existent" (Gozdziak, Bump, Duncan, MacDonnell, and Loiselle 14). This study will look at the perceptions that Oklahomans have regarding human trafficking, the victims, and the different types of human trafficking that exist.

04.09.11 Structured Reminiscence

Aesha, John , Michael Witham

Northeastern State University

Structured reminiscence is often used with the elderly to improve their emotional wellbeing. This research project involved using the reminiscence approach with a group of six seniors at an assisted living facility. The aim was to assess the effectiveness of the approach in improving wellbeing of the participants. The research team conducted four reminiscence sessions, which included introductions, remembering school days, reminiscing holiday traditions, and concluded with how the participants felt about the sessions. Each session was facilitated by two research team members. Before the start of the first session and after the last session, the research team assessed the wellbeing of the participants through Philadelphia Geriatric Center's Morale Scale (PGC Morale; Lawton, 1975). To assess the effectiveness of the reminiscence group approach, the team compared the participants' pre and post-test scores on the PGC morale scale through a paired sample t-test analysis. The group also utilized qualitative observations to assess the effectiveness of the approach. Although the t-test did not yield significant results, the qualitative responses reflected that the participants enjoyed the reminiscence groups. Findings will be presented in the context of implications for research and practice.

04.09.12 The Perceived Impact of Living/Learning Communities on the Persistence Rates of Low-Income Freshmen

Patrick, Harrel

University of Central Oklahoma

Nationally, the concept of a first-year experience program has gained popularity as a recruitment and retention tool. However, many first-year programs fail due to limited interaction with faculty and staff. The success of a first-year experience program directly correlates to the level of institutional commitment and "buy-in" of faculty and staff because students develop a "university identity" that is relayed through interaction with faculty and staff who demonstrated a commitment to student success (Levitz, 2008). The goal of this research study is to determine the perceived impact of a first-year living/learning community on the persistence rates of low-income freshmen at the University of Central Oklahoma. However, low-income students persist for reasons different than their advantaged counterparts (Aronson, 2008). Self-reported perceptions of persistence will detail the effectiveness of cohort-based retention practices. Criteria for selection as a participant in the living/learning community includes socio-economic based documentation determining low-income status as prescribed by Pell grant eligibility. Participants will be invited to complete a digital survey that will contain questions pertaining to persistence from one academic year to the next and possible factors affecting persistence.

04.09.13 Access Programs and Higher Education

Fabian, Hernandez , Christopher Wise

University of Central Oklahoma

Student Support Services is a federally-funded grant program designed to provide assistance to students who are low-income, first generation college students, and/or students with a disability. There is a demonstrated need for programs in higher education that specifically support individuals who belong to the previously stated categories. The American Council on Education has listed several challenges that low-income students face: managing the demands of work, family life, education, and social schedules; financing the costs of higher education; receiving adequate academic advising and counseling; and regulating self-esteem issues. There is a strong correlation between parental education rates and poverty levels. Students whose parents have not completed a bachelor's degree are more likely to live in poverty. If a student has not received adequate preparation socially, personally, and culturally for success in higher education, the student will not adjust as readily to the academic and social structures of the college community. Student Support Services offers academic and skills-building enhancement through workshops, cultural activities, tutoring services, and the mentoring program. The Student Support Services staff coordinates with faculty, campus service agencies, and the University administrators to provide a safety net to students who are often left behind.